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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dated 20 August 1993 on the killing of a Yugoslav border guard and incidents on the Yugoslav-Albanian border.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Annex

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses serious concern over the continuous provocation of armed incidents and other provocations from the Albanian side of the Yugoslav-Albanian border where violations of the State territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia occur. From 1 January to 6 August 1993, the Albanian side caused 45 incidents, out of which 20 involved the use of arms. In recent months border incidents intensified and a large number of civilians and military persons from the Albanian side took part in these incidents. The aggressiveness of the Albanian provocations and the seriousness of the illegal incursions into the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are reflected in particular in the ruthless use of firearms against Yugoslav border patrols on their regular duty of guarding and securing the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as in the pulling down of border marks. In this connection, we condemn most energetically the killing of a Yugoslav border guard, shot in an armed ambush of the border patrol of the Yugoslav Army, on 19 August 1993, in close proximity to the Albanian border in Yugoslav territory.

The escalation of the armed attacks against Yugoslav border guards and the violation of the State territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is part of the deliberate policy of the Government of the Republic of Albania to cause tension at the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to destabilize the situation in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija and in the broader region of the Balkans, aimed at achieving its specific goals.

This policy was also confirmed by the statement of the President of Albania, Salih Berisha, of 10 August 1993, made on Albanian television and by the request of the Government of Albania to the Security Council, which called openly for the placing of Kosovo under the control of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations and for the dispatching of foreign monitors to the border between Albania and Serbia and to Kosovo.

These official Albanian positions openly disclose before the eyes of the entire world public the real intentions and objectives of the policy of the Government of Albania, which is directed against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is obvious that the highest official representatives of Albania are continuing and intensifying the policy of the communist regime of Enver Hoxha for the creation of "greater Albania" which, in addition to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, should also include parts of other Balkan States. Such a policy is also manifested in the open support to, and incitement of, the secessionist forces in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija. It was also manifested particularly by the official recognition of the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" by Albania.

By its open interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the instigation of, and assistance to, the secessionist forces, by abetting terrorist actions in Kosovo, by the escalation of border incidents and by calling for military intervention against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Government of Albania openly violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki principles and the Paris Charter of the Conference

on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other international acts relating to respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States. The present policy of the Government of Albania towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in the Balkans is a source of great danger for peace and stability in the region.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expressed its readiness on many occasions for the normalization and development of relations with Albania and initiated meetings and talks between government representatives of the two countries on all questions related to bilateral relations. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, committed to the principles of the policy of good-neighbourly relations, will continue such a policy.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia rejects the unfounded accusations of the Government of Albania concerning responsibility for the border incidents. In its efforts to ensure that unwanted border incidents not be repeated and that the regime of the inter-State border be brought back in line with international norms, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia pointed out, on a number of occasions, the need for preventive activity in order to check illegal crossings of the Albanian-Yugoslav border by Albanian nationals and to regulate all questions of common interest by agreement. However, for more than a year, the Government of Albania has, without any reason, refused to respond to our request for a meeting of the main Joint Inter-State Commission for Border Incidents.

Contrary to all international norms and standards, the Government of Albania has tried to minimize the importance of the existence of the inter-State border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as with its other neighbours with which, as it is known, it has very serious border problems. By abetting its citizens in illegally crossing State borders, the Government of Albania consciously brings into jeopardy the lives of its citizens and creates tension in its relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other neighbouring countries.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia informed the United Nations of all incidents that had occurred at the border with Albania, pointing out all the dangers inherent in such irresponsible Albanian behaviour and activity for stability, peace and security in the region.

The provocations and unfounded political and propaganda accusations of Albania correspond to the intensification of the international, political, economic and military pressure against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. An integral part of this anti-Yugoslav and in particular anti-Serbian policy of Albania, are its frequent requests to the Security Council, NATO and other international organizations to intervene in various ways, including militarily, in Yugoslavia and in particular in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia points out that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains committed to the idea of open borders and a free flow of peoples in accordance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and Paris Charter of CSCE. To that end it calls for an all-round dialogue with Albania on all outstanding issues concerning inter-State relations and

their normalization on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs and the realization of good-neighbourliness. This is the tested and best way for strengthening peace, security and stability in the region.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia therefore calls on the Government of Albania to show readiness for cooperation and, as a first step, to accept the proposal for the holding of an urgent meeting of the main Joint Inter-State Commission for Border Incidents and subsequently a meeting at the ministerial level.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue its efforts in reaching a constructive agreement with Albania on guarding and maintaining the regime of the State border.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will, as in the past, resolutely defend the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of its border as well as the lives of its border guards.